

HENDERSON TO MOLÉ.^a

HENDERSON TO MOLÉ.^b

HENDERSON TO SECRETARY OF STATE [IRION].^c

Legation of Texas
Despatch No. 4

PARIS, *November 12th, 1838*

To the Honorable
The SECRETARY OF STATE

SIR

In Despatch No. 2, I informed you that I had proposed to this Government to establish Commercial arrangements between it and Texas. I also then informed you of the reason that induced me to make that proposition, before the question of recognition was disposed of. After making the proposition formally to the Kings Government, I deemed it most prudent not to urge them to come to a determination upon the same, still fearing that they might regard such a course as indicative of my true expectations in regard to their action upon the claims of Texas. I also believed that they were at least determined to enter into the arrangement which I proposed, and that they would only delay it for the purpose of inducing me to remain in daily expectation of completing it, until they could hear from their Agent whom I heretofore informed you they have sent to Texas. If I were right in that conjecture at first, I suppose they altered their determination with regard to the *time* of completing the arrangement I proposed, after I had fully assured Count Molé of my determination to remain, until they shall have received that Agent's report. On the 5th. Instant I received from Count Molé a communication in answer to my proposition of which the following is a translated Copy.

SIR

I have the honor of announcing to you, that the Government of the King, after an attentive examination of the proposal which was the object of your letter of the 1st. of October, is disposed to agree to that proposal on the following terms

“Until the mutual relations of France and Texas are regulated in a complete and definitive manner, the Citizens, the vessels and the Merchandize of the two Countries shall enjoy in every respect in each of the Countries the treatment accorded, or which may eventually be

^a November 7, 1838. See Henderson to Secretary of State [Irion], November 12, 1838.

^b November 12, 1838. See Henderson to Secretary of State [Irion], November 12, 1838.

^c L. S.

accorded to the most favored Nation, conformably moreover to the Respective Usages."

If the powers which you hold from your Government, authorize you to subscribe to this stipulation, I will be obliged to you Sir, if you will let me know, and express in its name, a formal and explicit adhesion to it, in order that the Government of the King may be enabled to give in consequence, the necessary information and advice to the French Commerce.

Receive Sir the assurance of the very profound consideration with which I have the honor to be

Your very humble and obedient Servant

(Signed) MOLÉ.

PARIS, *November 2d. 1838*

The terms proposed by the Kings Government for the regulation of the intercourse between the two Nations, being perfectly reciprocal, and as favorable to Texas as I could expect, I did not hesitate in coming to the conclusion to agree to them. The powers which I hold from my Government being plenary, and my instructions from the former Executive of Texas upon this Subject, being definite: regarding too the precedent cases, and considering them at least partial authority in the present, and also considering that this commercial arrangement does not amount in *form to a Treaty*, and therefore not requiring the Sanction of the Senate to make it complete; I determined to exercise the full power vested in me by the late Executive, and give the complete and definite sanction of my Government to the same, so as to give to it immediate effect here and in Texas, as you will see from the Count's communication was the King's desire. I was also anxious to have the matter finally arranged, as soon as possible, in order that it might be made known publicly in the United States in time to influence the United States Bank in coming to a decision upon the subject of the Texian Bonds, which they had under consideration.^a I therefore after a full consideration of all the circumstances addressed the following reply to the Count's communication:

PARIS, *November 7th. 1838*

The Undersigned Agent of the Republic of Texas has the honor to acknowledged the Receipt of His Excellency Count Molés communication of the 2d. Instant, announcing to him that the King of the French has determined to enter into a commercial arrangement with the Government of Texas in accordance with the proposition of the Undersigned of the 1st. of October last, and proposing the following terms

"En attendant que les relations mutuelles de la France et du Texas soient réglées d'une manière complete et définitive, les Cito-

^a See Catlett to Irion, July 20, 1838, in Correspondence with the United States, in Part I.

yens, les Navires et les Marchandises de chacun des deux pays jouiront, à tous égards, dans l'autre, du traitement accordé, ou qui pourra être accordé par la suite à la Nation la plus favorisée, et conforme, en outre, aux usages respectifs."

The Undersigned being fully authorized and empowered by the Government of Texas, to make and complete a commercial arrangement with the Kings Government does hereby agree to, ratify, and confirm, on the part of his Government, the terms as above set forth and proposed by the King's Government for regulating the Commercial intercourse between France and Texas, until the same shall have been more formally and definitely arranged between the two Nations.

The Undersigned begs leave to renew to his Excellency Count Molé, the assurance of his most distinguished consideration

(Signed) J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON.

His Excellency Count MOLÉ
etc. etc. etc.

Had not so many weighty circumstances concurred to induce me to take the course I have in this matter, I would not have agreed that the arrangement should go into effect, without first receiving the sanction of the new Executive. I the more readily concluded to take the course I have, because the terms of the arrangement are as favorable to Texas as the President could desire, and such as I am convinced will meet with his entire Sanction. You will see that the arrangement is entirely based upon the National existence of Texas, independent of her present position towards Mexico, or the consideration that she has not yet been formally recognized by France as a Nation, separate and independent of Mexico.

It is therefore much more advantageous than the arrangement which I made with England. That arrangement is founded upon the supposition that Texas is still a part of Mexico; and the British Government have consented to shut their eyes to the true situation of Texas, and allow her vessels to enter British Ports under the stipulations of the Treaty between England and Mexico. In the above communication from Count Molé, you will see he speaks of Texas as a Nation, and her authorities as a Government. I am fully persuaded that the King will recognize Texas immediately upon the receipt of the report of the Agent who has been sent to Texas, provided he reports favorably of her situation, and provided also that they do not previously settle their difficulty with Mexico.

I have just received from Mr. Jones the Texian Minister at Washington, a communication announcing to me, that he has under instructions from the President, formally withdrawn the application of Texas for admission into the Union of the United States.^a Imme-

^a See Jones to Vail, October 12, 1838, in Calendar of Correspondence with the United States, in Part I.

diately upon the receipt of that information which was rendered official with me by a former communication from the Secretary of State, and considering the influence it might have upon this Government, when they came finally to pass upon the question of recognition, I communicated the fact to Count Molé as follows—

PARIS, *November 12, 1838*

The Undersigned Agent of the Republic of Texas has the honor to inform His Excellency Count Molé, the Minister of Foreign affairs etc., that he is instructed by his Government to make known to the King's Government that the application heretofore made to the Government of the United States by Texas to be admitted into the Union of the United States, has been formally and absolutely withdrawn by the Texian Minister at Washington in pursuance of instructions from the Government of Texas. The Undersigned regards it as incumbent upon him, and gladly avails himself of this opportunity to explain to the Government of the King, the *apparent* inconsistency, that while Texas was applying to another Government to be recognized as an Independent Nation, She was at the same time seeking admission into the Union of the North American States. Soon after the declaration of her Independence in 1836, the people of Texas by a vote of great unanimity, resolved to make application to be annexed to the United States. That resolution was entered into soon after her separation from Mexico and at a time when Texas regarded her contest with Mexico as doubtful in its result. She was also aware, that should the Government of the United States agree to receive her under their protection, the contest would be immediately terminated, and her people become at once, a flourishing and rich Community. Accordingly the Texian Minister at Washington under instructions from the President soon after the formation of the present Government of Texas, made a formal application to the Government of the United States to annex Texas to that Government as one of the States of the Union. That proposition was rejected by the President of the United States in a few weeks after it was made, but not before the people of Texas had at least become indifferent on the subject.

Events which occurred in Texas and Mexico soon after the former declared herself independent of the latter, Such as the defeat and capture of the Mexican Army in Texas, together with Genl. Santa Anna, the commander in chief and President of Mexico, the embarrassed situation of the Treasury of Mexico, the rapid increase in the population of Texas, these combined with other causes, convinced Texas, that she not only had every necessary element to form an Independent Government, as well as the power to defend herself against Mexico, but that she would become the invading power in the event of a continuance of the war.

The people and Government of Texas, after fully considering the matter, saw the many disadvantages to which they would subject themselves by the proposed annexation to the United States; Amongst the greatest of these, was the protective Tariff laws of the United States, enacted exclusively for the benefit of the Northern States, and to protect their manufactories; and which have so long oppressed the Southern Cotton growing States of that Country. Knowing that as a Government separate and independent of the United States, they could invite every Nation of Europe to enter her Markets with their Goods upon equal terms, that they might purchase of those who could supply them upon the most favorable terms, and take in exchange the produce of their lands, they rejoiced that the President of the United States had refused to treat with their Minister for their annexation to that Government.

When the President of the United States, by the Secretary of State of the United States informed the Minister of Texas of his determination in that regard, the Government of Texas Considered that the proposition had been finally disposed of. And so it rested, until the spring last past, when some of the Members of the Congress of the United States from the South, anxious to have Texas annexed to the Union, in order to counter balance the power of the Northern Tariff States, and give to the Southern States a majority of members in Congress, again brought the question up by proposing a resolution to annex Texas to the United States. Upon being informed of that fact, the Senate of Texas passed a resolution requesting the President to instruct their Minister at Washington to formally, finally and unconditionally withdraw the application for the annexation of Texas to the United States,^a which he did as above stated. Hereafter the relations between Texas and the United States will be the same as between other Nations of the Earth.

The Undersigned avails himself of this occasion to renew to Count Molé the assurance of his very high regard and most distinguished consideration

(Signed) J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON

His Excellency Count MOLÉ

etc. etc. etc.

I shall at an early day make the same known to the British Government through their Ambassador at this Court.

I have the honor to be Your Most obedient
and very humble Servant

J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON

^aThis must be a mistake. Cf. Irion to Hunt, May 18, 1838, in Correspondence with the United States, in Part I.

HENDERSON TO JONES.^aHENDERSON TO SECRETARY OF STATE [IRION].^b

PARIS Nov 23rd 1838

DR SIR

Since my last despatch to you nothing of importance has transpired. I still await the report of the Agent whom France has sent to Texas. I find that it will be necessary for me to have letters of credence from Genl Lamar the *present* President of Texas, to the Governments of France and England. I have letters from Genl Houston to the King of France and Queen of England but inasmuch as I shall not obtain leave to deliver them until *after* Genl Lamar is inaugurated (if *at all*) it will be necessary for me to have others from the *then* President of Texas as such is the custom in this Country. It is also necessary that I should have a letter of credence to the *Queen* of France and the *Queen dowager* of England. And as I *may* need the letters accrediting me to this Court in a couple of months I must request you to forward them to me as *soon as possible*. The letters which I have from Genl Houston are blank and *only* signed by the President without being countersigned by the Secy of State and having attached thereto the Great seal of Texas as is necessary to make them unobjectionable

In attending to this matter you will much oblige me by asking the President to sign his name at the bottom of the first page of each sheet of fine letter paper to which you will please attach the *Great* seal of the Republic and countersign your name

Please place the Great seal on with wafors as it will look naked without. I am thus particular because the blank letters forwarded to me from Texas heretofore are deficient in every particular except the Presidents name. I request you to send them blank in order that I may adopt the most approved form for the letters. The first page of a sheet of letter paper will be sufficiently large to contain a letter of the kind necessary. It will be necessary to have three for each Court viz One for the King (here) one for the Queen and one to forward to the Minister of Foreign affairs for his inspection and approval before I can have leave to present the original to the king etc. etc. The same in England. You are doubtless aware that much *very* much importance is attached to matters of form here and the least deviation from the established forms is fatal to any act. By

^a November 12, 1838. See Calendar.

^b A. L. S.

having the letters sent as above I can avoid every possible difficulty. I am in great haste as I write this whilst the American Consul waits to close his letter bag

Your Most Obedt
Humble servant

J PINCKNEY HENDERSON

HENDERSON TO JONES.^a

HENDERSON TO JONES.^b

HENDERSON TO SECRETARY OF STATE [BEE].^c

PARIS *Jan 26th 1839*

To The Honble SECY OF STATE

SIR

I have not yet learned the names of the gentlemen who form Genl Lamar's Cabinet and therefore know not to whom I ought to address this letter. Every thing has been in confusion with this Government for the last ten days the Ministers having resigned in consequence of the vote of the Chamber of Deputies upon the various items in the address of that body to the King censuring them for a bad administration of the Government particularly in regard to their intercourse and connexions with Foreign Governments. The King has requested Marshal Soult to form a new Cabinet with himself at its head but to retain Count Molé. The Marshal it seems has refused to enter into a coalition with any of the late Ministry unless they agree to make certain concessions of their opinions which they hitherto have refused to do. I hope that Molé will continue as Minister of Foreign affairs because he is now pretty well acquainted with Texian affairs and I think well disposed and should another person come into that office at this time I fear it would greatly retard the business of my Mission. I am still quietly awaiting the report of the Agent which this Government has sent to Texas. As soon as they shall have received that report I will urge them to give me an immediate and definite answer to my application for the recognition of the Independence of Texas. I hope that you have since your instalment into office examined the several Despatches which I addressed last Fall to your predecessor so that the President with your advice may

^a December 5, 1838. See Calendar.

^b December 28, 1838. See Calendar.

^c A. L. S.

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Humble servant

J PINCKNEY HENDERSON

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^a December 5, 1838. See Calendar.

^b December 28, 1838. See Calendar.

^c A. L. S.

know how to cause me to be instructed in regard to the several matters therein alluded to. * * * ^a

My Despatches up to this date will I think pretty well acquaint you with the situation of the business of this Legation.

I requested leave of Genl. Houston last summer to return to Texas (leaving the business here and in London in charge of Mr McIntosh) as soon as the two Governments shall have acknowledged the Independence of Texas which leave I obtained through the Secy of State. It is still my determination to act upon that leave unless Genl. Lamar otherwise commands me and upon which subject I wish to hear from you as soon as possible. * * * ^b

I suppose that the President will send a separate Minister to each of the Courts of Paris and London after they recognize Texas? In that event Mr. McIntosh wishes to fill one or the other of the places. He is well qualified and intimately acquainted with the business of both Legations. I will however write to the President on this subject. I hope I shall be ready to leave for Texas about June next.

I have the honour to be
Your obt servant

HENDERSON

HENDERSON TO LAMAR.^c

PARIS Feb 26th 1839

MY DEAR SIR

Having been confined to my bed for several weeks with inflammation of my lungs and being still confined from its effects I am now barely able to pay my respects to you by writing a few words. Things remain here as they were when I last had the honour of addressing you.* I promised Count Molé as I heretofore informed you that I would let matters rest until he received the report of the Agent which he ordered to Texas and therefore I cannot urge recognition again until that report reaches him. I very much wish that he had received it before this time as I think now would be a most favourable moment to act. I have lately alluded to the subject in general conversation with him hoping that he would relieve me from my bond by taking up the subject himself but he seems to be determined to let it rest until he can act upon evidence furnished by that Agent. The Government is a good deal alarmed by a report which has reached here that Mexico has issued letters of Marque etc. The King dissolved the Chamber of Deputies lately—the election for another chamber takes place in a few days when I hope the Ministerial party will suc-

* For matter omitted see Calendar of Correspondence with Great Britain.

^b The matter here omitted relates to Henderson's salary.

^c A. L. S.

ceed by a majority sufficiently large to enable them to act freely and independently upon all questions. Should that be the case and should their Agent make a report that will justify them in it I have no doubt that the King will speedily recognize Texas. If the letters of Marque which Mexico has issued are general in the powers they confer viz to capture etc. *all* enemies vessels and goods, will not the commerce of Texas suffer? I hope she may soon have vessels of her own sufficient to protect her commerce.

I fear that England will not recognize Texas so long as Canada continues to threaten to revolt. Lord Durham in his communication lately to the Queens Government upon the subject of Canada and its Government, the causes of the disturbance etc. etc. gives as one strong reason why the rebellion took place in Canada the example of the conquest made of Texas by the people of the South Western States of the United States. Several other *Noble Lords* have taken the same position in debating that question. I have always been of opinion and have so expressed it to Genl Houston that that question would continue to and had greatly retarded the final action of the British Government on the question of Texian Independence

I mentioned to the Secy of State some time since that I wished to return to Texas as soon as I can accomplish the object of my Mission I would dislike to return before that event I cannot think however of remaining here as my health has suffered severely from this and the *winter* climate of England. Mr McIntosh whom you know is desirous of receiving the appointment to this or the Court of St James after I leave. He is well qualified and well acquainted with the state of business at both places. I have instructions or leave from the former Executive to leave the business here and in England in his charge after recognition in case I wish then to return upon which I shall act unless I am otherwise instructed by Your Excellency.^a

* * * * *
Your Most obedient
Servant etc. etc.

J PINCKNEY HENDERSON

Genl M. B. LAMAR
etc. etc.

HENDERSON TO BEE.^b

PARIS Feb 27th 1839

MY DEAR SIR

I am now slowly recovering from a very severe attack of inflammation of the lungs and threatened hemorage an affliction which I have

^a The matter here omitted relates to Henderson's salary.

^b A. L. S.

heretofore suffered under. I am still confined to my room but hope to be out in a few days

I cannot spend another winter here with safety. My constitution needs the more genial climate of Texas. I disliked to return without accomplishing the object of my mission or I would not have spent this winter here

I am rejoiced to see that Genl. Lamar has made choice of the gentlemen you name in your communication of the 20th of December^a for his Cabinet. It is the strongest guarantee of the success of his administration and added to his own great merit cannot fail to produce the most brilliant results for Texas. The only matter connected with those appointments that I lament is the loss of Genl Johnston to the Army. I am glad to see that Genl Dunlap has become one of us since I left Texas. I am most anxious to hear of the return of the French agent from Texas to the U. S. as my tongue is now tied by the promise I gave Count Molé viz to rest quiet until their agent reported upon our situation etc. I am truly sorry that their Minister at Washington did not cause him to set out for Texas at an earlier day as his report might in that case have reached here before this time which would have placed it in my power to urge recognition at this time when the King and whole Nation are certainly much exasperated at the conduct of Mexico and which will be not a little increased when it is certainly known that she has issued letters of marque to Yanky and English Cruisers. This Govt. now contemplate much difficulty from their Mexican relations and I think will be well disposed to recognize Texas provided their agents report will justify that step

I hope to be promptly informed by you of the return of that agent to the U. S. that I may know when to resume my entreaties with this Govt. I think that I have Count Molé so bound up by promise that he will feel himself obliged to answer me yea or nay upon the subject of recognition as soon as he receives that report. I have not urged the question in any shape since I promised him to remain quiet for that report; he cannot therefore refuse to perform his obligation etc. etc. I have once or twice lately alluded to the matter by way of giving him an opportunity of volunteering a more full and formal communication on the subject provided recent events had so disposed him; but he seems to be well determined to hear something more of Texas from one of the Kings officers. The King you know has been compelled lately to dissolve the chamber of Deputies and the elections for a new chamber take place in a few days, consequently the present Ministry wish to delay action on all important questions until after the elections fearing that they might prejudice their cause

^a See Bee to Henderson, December 26, 1838. This is probably the letter meant.

which they under the present state of affairs seem confident in.
* * *^a Tell friend Hunt that I will write him as soon as I feel myself able. I am now so nervous and weak from bleeding, blistering, etc. etc. that I can scarcely hold my head up.

Truly Yours

J PINCKNEY HENDERSON

Coln B. E. BEE
etc. etc.

HENDERSON TO BEE.^b

PARIS *March 10th 1839*

MY DEAR SIR

When I last wrote you I was ill with inflammation of my lungs I am still suffering under the same affliction somewhat modified in its severity. I make this communication in the shape of a private letter inasmuch as I have no news of sufficient importance to communicate in a formal despatch. You have been heretofore fully informed in regard to my position here—That I cannot move until the Agent of France who has been sent to Texas makes his report. I feel well assured however that the present Government of France (The Molé Ministry) is prepared to recognize Texas provided that Agent makes a just report. The King too fully understands the question and is individually favourable to recognition provided *facts* will warrant that measure. Genl. Cass the United States Minister called on me a few days since and informed me that he had on the day previous held a conversation with the King upon the subject of Texian affairs and my position here and that his Majesty informed him that his Agent had gone to Texas for the purpose of looking into and reporting her situation etc. etc. and that he expected his Minister of State would soon hear from him—that matters of such importance as the recognition of a newly formed Government required much investigation and serious deliberation which always caused considerable delay, but that he was prepared in mind to make such a disposition of the question as might seem just and proper to his Ministers after being fully informed by their own officer now in Texas. Genl. C— held that conversation with the King in compliance with a request by myself some weeks since I requested him to do so because I knew that the King and his Ministers would communicate more freely with him as the Representative of the U. S. which has already recognized Texas than with myself or any other person. Genl. C— was convinced from all that passed that the King is favourably disposed towards Texas

^a The matter here omitted relates to Henderson's salary.

^b A. L. S.

You will have learned ere this that the King dissolved the Chamber of Deputies some weeks since and ordered a new election to be held which took place on the 2nd and 3rd [inst] and resulted in a defeat of the present Ministry by a majority (variously estimated at from 20 to 30) of opposition candidates being returned

I lament the change which must inevitably take place in the Cabinet soon after if not previous to the meeting of the Chamber which takes place on the 26th. Instant. I regret it not because I suppose the new Ministry will be opposed to the recognition of Texian Independence but because I shall in all probability be compelled to travel over the whole ground over which I have heretofore so slowly passed to bring the question before the Molé Ministry as it now stands. The question may be entirely novel to the persons who will succeed the present Cabinet and unless they speedily bring it before the King who now fully understands the matter I shall yet probably meet with considerable delay I still hope however that their Agents report will arrive by the next Steam Packet from New York and that the present Ministry may dispose of the question before they retire. That Packet is now expected daily in England by which letters etc. are brought for all parts of Europe. Should I have any reason to believe that that report has reached this Govt. by that source I will not fail to urge a decision of the question immediately. I will again urge the British Government to give me a desisive answer upon the subject as soon as France shall have disposed finally of the question.

* * * * *

I am still very weak and nervous
Your obt Servant

J PINCKNEY HENDERSON

P. S. Since writing this letter I learn that the Molé Ministry have resigned and that Marshal Soult has had an audience of the King and agreed to form a new ministry this morning, 12th March.

ANDUZE TO LAMAR.^b

HOUSTON *April 18th 1839.*

MR. PRESIDENT.

I have the honor to inform your Excellency, that I have been sent to you, by Admiral Baudin Plenipotentiary of France and commander of the Naval forces of that Nation, in the Gulf of Mexico, to enter into an explanation upon some propositions, which were made

^a Part of the matter here omitted refers to Henderson's salary; for the remainder see Report House Committee on Foreign Relations, 4th Tex. Cong., p. 32.

^b See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, p. 198.

to the Admiral by the French Consul at New Orleans, and represented to be the official, though informal, expression of yourself in the impending contest between France and Mexico.

You will perceive, Mr President, by the letter of the Admiral, which I have had the honor to deliver to your Excellency,^a that I am authorized to enquire into that matter. With every disposition of the Admiral to meet the Government of Texas in an agreement, which shall be mutually beneficial and satisfactory, permit me therefore to ask.

First, What would be the nature of the co-operation of Texas in the event of a new war between France and Mexico?

Second, What would be the extent of your demands, in money, war ammunitions, means of transportation, etc.?

Third, What would be the guarantees offered for the reimbursement of the advances thus made?

As the propositions which were represented to be made by you, were not sufficiently specified, I beg of you Mr President, to state the propositions, which you would be willing to make, on the eventuality of a new quarrel between France and Mexico.

Though this Mission of mine, Mr President does not proceed directly from the French Government, as the propositions will, I hope, be mutually advantageous, both to you and to France, The Admiral Baudine will feel it his duty to obtain the approbation and sanction of his Government.

I have the honor to be, Mr President, with sentiments of the highest consideration and respect, of Your Excellency
the most Obedt and humble Servt

The Abbé M. B. ANDUZE

To his Excellency

M. B. LAMAR

President of the Republic of Texas.

WEBB TO BAUDIN.^b

WEBB TO ANDUZE.^c

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Houston 25th April '39

The Abbé ANDUZE,

SIR, His Excellency the President has had under consideration the enquiries propounded by you, in your favor of the 18th inst. and

^a No copy of this letter has been found in the archives.

^b April 25, 1839. See Webb to Anduze, April 25, 1839.

^c See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 38, pp. 118-119.

after mature deliberation, is of the opinion that no specific answer can be given to them at this time. The reasons which have induced his Excellency to come to this conclusion, you will find detailed in the enclosed communication to Admiral Baudin, which you will be so kind as to hand to him on his arrival in this country.

His Excellency the President directs me to express to you the satisfaction which your visit has afforded him, and to assure you of the great desire he entertains to form such amicable relations with France as he believes might be made mutually advantageous.

Wishing you individually much happiness, I have the honor to be with great respect, Your Most Obedient Servant.

JAMES WEBB.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Houston 25th Apl 1839.

SIR,

His Excellency the President has received with feelings of the liveliest interest the communication you did him the honor to forward by the Abbé Anduze, who has most satisfactorily explained the Object of his visit, and he directs me to say that he fully appreciates the great advantages which would result to this country, in any contest, by an alliance with the gallant people of France.

He also directs me to say that the communication which was made to you by the French Consul in New Orleans was not authorized by him but the spirit which dictated that communication accorded with the feelings of this Government at the time. Events however, have since transpired, which have materially changed the situation of affairs. France acting on principles of enlightened generosity has given peace to Mexico; and Texas, animated by a sincere desire of adjusting her difference, has been *induced* to send a messenger with the offer of peace to that Nation. It will soon be seen whether the generosity of France and the overtures of Texas, will be alike disregarded.

When Mexico shall violate her engagements with France, and refuse peace to Texas, the active and zealous Co-operation of this Republic will be given to chastise her. Judging of the future by the past, His Excellency the President is not sanguine in his expectations, that the desire for an amicable adjustment of differences felt by this Government, will be met by a corresponding spirit on the part of Mexico, and in that event, altho much to be deplored, Texas will carry the War home to Mexico, and at the point of the Sword force her to the just observance of our rights.

In the *existing* state of affairs His Excellency the President cannot give a specific answer to the interrogatories propounded by the

Abbe Anduze. When France and Texas shall both find it necessary to make war upon Mexico, this Government will enter upon it with a firm determination to prosecute it with the utmost vigor,—to give no rest to Mexico until she shall be willing to sue for it by proposing an honorable and advantageous peace. Texas will then be proud to unite with France, and will bring into the field at the shortest notice, twenty thousand soldiers and more if required; but France would be expected to advance, the money necessary to a successful prosecution of the war, and for the pecuniary responsibilities incurred by Texas she will give such guarantees as will be satisfactory to France.

His Excellency the President directs me to welcome you to Texas, and to ask a personal interview with you at Houston, where he will unreservedly communicate the opinions he entertains respecting the situation of the affairs of this Country with Mexico. At the same time he will have much pleasure in making known to you the great desire which is felt by the people of this Republic, to form lasting relations of friendship with France.

I have the honor to be with great consideration Your Most obdt. Servt

JAMES WEBB, *Secy of State
of the Republic of Texas.*

To Admiral BAUDIN
*Commander of the French Naval forces in the
Gulf of Mexico.*

HENDERSON TO WEBB.^a

(Despatch Informal)

LEGATION OF TEXAS
Paris April 28th 1839.

To the Honl.
The SECRETARY OF STATE.

SIR,

A few days since I addressed a letter to the President requesting leave to return to Texas. Regarding it as more proper to make known my wish in that regard through that Department of the Government with which I can alone *formally* communicate, I have deemed it necessary to address you this, in the shape of an *informal* despatch. I therefore beg that you will acquaint the President of my wish to deliver up my authority as Minister to the Government of France and England into the hands of such person or persons as he may name and authorize to receive the same about the first of Sept next. I name that time for two reasons, first, because I hope

^a See Records of Department of State (Texas), Book 41, pp. 106.

to have ere then obtained definite answers from the Governments of France and Great Britain upon the subject of the Recognition of Texas, and secondly that I may have time to travel South before the cold weather again sets in. My health suffered so seriously last winter from the inclemency of this climate that I cannot with safety remain here another winter. In addition my private business from which my attention has been almost entirely directed for [almost] three years demands my attention.

According to the custom, of this and the Court of St James it is necessary for a Minister upon his returning to deliver to the Sovereign the letter (or a duplicate copy of the same) recalling him. That should in this case be from the hand of the President under the great seal etc. I hope you will forward such for me, for this and the Court of London for my use in the event of Recognition before I leave. They can be forwarded by my successor and may be in blank with the Presidents name at the *bottom* of the first sheet or rather the first *page* of Letter paper, sealed etc. In that way they may be used by myself or successor in the event that Texas shall not be recognized before I leave. You are doubtless informed that great importance is attached to all such formalities in Europe and they are *never* departed from even in favor of the simplicity of Republican diplomatists.

I learned a few days since that the agent sent by this Government to Texas arrived at Galveston in February last, I hope that his report will soon arrive here. The Duke of Montabello the Minister of Foreign Affairs *ad interim*, informed me a few days since that he expected to hear from him in the course of a few weeks. Marshall Soult has not yet succeeded in forming a new Ministry from the discordant materials which compose the combination that voted down the Molé Ministry nor do I believe that he will be able to form a Ministry under his present instructions, certainly such a Ministry could not remain in office three weeks. The combination must necessarily include men of both extremes—Republicans and Absolutists. It does seem to me that the Molé party which occupy the centre as do the Whigs in England is the only one that can succeed finally.

I suggested in my last to the President the necessity of blockading Vera Cruz and such other of the Mexican Ports as may be within the province of our Navy as soon as it is afloat and manned. I feel well assured that that course would do more to settle the war with Mexico than any other which Texas could adopt. England would feel herself bound to interfere immediately and bring about a compromise between Texas and Mexico which of course would be upon the basis of the absolute recognition of Texas by Mexico and England too. That course she would be compelled to take in order to preserve the Millions which her citizens have invested in Mines and

trade in and to Mexico. Her course in the late contest between *France* and Mexico is sufficient to prove this fact. The whole influence of the Capitalists in England has heretofore been against Texas. They have owing to them by the Government of Mexico about forty Millions of dollars. Mexican Bonds now sell in London at a discount of *94 to 95* per cent.

Some of the friends of Texas here have been of late somewhat alarmed by the recent report which reached them through the U. States papers, that Texas was about entering into a compact with Urrea as the leader of the federal party in Mexico to furnish men etc. etc. in consideration that he would recognize Texas etc. I have begged them not to be alarmed in regard to that matter,—that I could assure them that I believed Texas had not and would not form a political or *belligerent* connexion with any Mexican party.

I will officially inform you at the earliest day possible of my proceedings with this Government after their Agents Report shall have been received by them.

I have the honor to be
Your Most Obedient Servt.

J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON.

To the Honl
JUDGE WEBB.

HENDERSON TO WEBB.^a

PARIS *Apl. 28th 39.*

DEAR SIR

I just * * * forwarding to you the inclosed * * * in the form and manner informally ^b

My excuse is that I have just received a note from the American Consul (in whose official letter bag I send all my letters to America for greater safety) requesting me to forward to his office such packages as I desire to send in an hour; as the Mail to Havre by a late arrangement of the Post Office leaves tonight instead of tomorrow morning. Therefore the Secy of Legation has not time to copy in a more neat manner the communication. * * * ^c

Your Most Obedient and
Very Humble Servant

J. PINCKNEY HENDERSON

To The Honbl.
JUDGE WEBB
Secy of State

^a A. L. S.; inclosed with the "Dispatch Informal" of the same date.

^b Where the omissions are indicated in this sentence the manuscript is illegible.

^c Here is omitted some matter of a private nature.